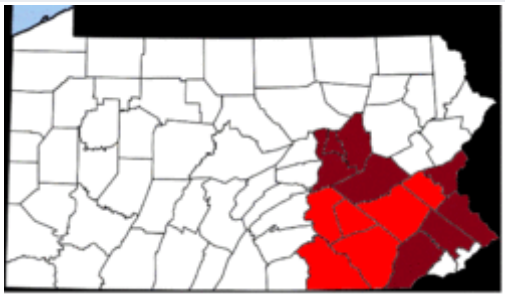
Pennsylvania Dutch English

Pennsylvania Dutch English is a dialect of English that has been influenced by the Pennsylvania German language. It is largely spoken in South Central Pennsylvania, both by people who are monolingual (in English) and bilingual (in Pennsylvania German and English). The dialect has been dying out, as non-Amish younger Pennsylvania Germans tend to speak General American English. Very few non-Amish members of these people can speak the Pennsylvania German language, although most know some words and phrases. The World War II Generation was the last generation in which Pennsylvania Dutch was widely spoken outside the Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities.[1]

Pennsylvania Dutch English	
Native to	United States, Canada
Region	Pennsylvania; Ohio; Indiana; Ontario; and elsewhere
Language family	Indo-European ▪ Germanic ▪ West Germanic ▪ Ingvaeonic ▪ Anglo–Frisian ▪ English ▪ **Pennsylvania Dutch English**
Writing system	Latin (English alphabet)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–



Counties in "Pennsylvania Dutch Country", one of several regions in which Pennsylvania German and "Pennsylvania Dutch English" have traditionally been spoken.

Contents

Features of Pennsylvania German influence
See also
References
External links

Features of Pennsylvania German influence

Pennsylvania Dutch English differs from standard American English in various ways. [2] Some of its hallmark features include the following:

- Widespread devoicing of obstruents.
- The use of certain vowel variants in specific phonological contexts.
- The use of Pennsylvania German verb and noun stems in word construction.
- Specific intonation patterns for questions.
- Special placement of prepositional phrases in sentences (so that "Throw some hay over the fence for the horse" might be rendered "Throw the horse over the fence some hay").
- The use of "ain't" and "not" or "say" as question tags.
- The use of "still" as a habitual verbal marker.
- Use of the word "yet" to mean "still," such as "do you work at the store yet?" to mean "do you still work at the store?"
- Use of terms such as "doncha know" and "so I do" or "so he does" at the end of declaratory sentences.

- Use of the word "awhile" at the end of sentences proposing simultaneous actions (e.g. "Go get the tea out of the pantry; I'll start boiling the water awhile.").
- Omitting "to be" from the passive construction in an infinitive following "needs" or "wants"(e.g. "the car needs cleaned" instead of "the car needs to be cleaned").

Other calques include:

Pennsylvania Dutch English term	Standard English term	Pennsylvania German term	Related Standard German term	Word-for-word Standard German translation
Outen the lights.	Turn off the lights.	Mach's Licht aus.	Mach das Licht aus.	"Make the light off."
The [noun] is all. (e.g. The food is all.)	There is no more [noun].	Die [nouns] sin all.	Die [nouns] sind alle.	"The [nouns] are all."
Don't eat yourself full.	Don't fill yourself up.	Iss dich net voll.	Iss dich nicht voll.	"Eat yourself not full."
There's cake back yet.	There is cake to come.	Es gibt datt noch Kuche.	Es gibt da noch Kuchen.	"It passes there yet cake." / "There is yet cake."
It wonders me.	It makes me wonder.	Es wunnert mich.	Das wundert mich.	"It wonders me."
Spritzing	Lightly raining	Schpritze	Spritzen	"Spurting / Squirting"
Rutsching	Squirming	Rutsche	Rutschen	"Slipping / Sliding"
Schusslich	Clumsy (with things, usually due to hurrying)	Schusslich	Schusselig	"Scatty / Scatterbrained"
Doplich / Doppich	Clumsy (with oneself)	Doppich	Täppisch / Tappig	"Clumsy"
Yah, well.	Whatever / It makes no difference	Ya, well.	Ja, wohl.	"Yes, well."
Wutz	Pig (when someone eats a lot)	Die Wutz	Die Wutz	"The Pig" (regional word)
Kutz / Kutzing	Vomit / Vomiting	Die Kutz / Kutze	Die Kotze / Kotzen	"Vomit"
Schtriwwelich	Uncombed or stringy	Schtriwwelich	Strubbelig	"Disheveled"
Brutzing / Grexing	Whining/ Complaining	Brutze / Grexe	Jammern / Klagen	"Whining / Complaining"
Wuntz (Once)	For a second / Quickly	Eemols	Einmal	Once / One-time
Mox nix	Irrelevant	Macht's nix	(Das) Macht nichts.	"(That) Matters not."
Nix nootz / Nix nootzie	Misbehaving (usually referring to a little kid)	Nixnutz	Nichtsnutz	"No-use."
Schnickelfritz	Troublemaker (usually referring to a little kid)	Schnickelfritz	Schnacken + Fritz	"Chatting Fritz"
That's all	None left / All gone	All / Alle	Alle / Leer	"All / Blank"
Right like	Exactly the same as	Genau wie / Yuscht wie	Genau wie	"Just like"

Other idioms include "Make wet?" meaning "Is it going to rain?", "hurrieder" meaning "faster", and "dippy eggs/ecks" meaning "over-easy or soft-boiled eggs".

See also

- Lunenburg English, a dialect of Canadian English similarly influenced by German
- Northeast Pennsylvania English
- Philadelphia dialect
- North American English regional phonology
- Regional vocabularies of American English

References

1. Di Domizio, Tony (2010-11-10). "Pennsylvania Dutch dialect is still alive in the region" (http://www.montgomerynews.com/soudertonindependent/news/pennsylvania-dutch-dialect-is-still-alive-in-the-region/article_906840c3-08cf-5fde-b5b3-0d65f373fb14.html). *Souderton Independent*.
2. Lynch, Larry. "Pennsylvania Dutch: Structure, Pronunciation, and Popular Expressions" (https://www.brighthubeducation.com/studying-a-language/54938-the-pennsylvania-dutch-language). *Bright Hub Education*.

External links

- "Pennsylvania German versus Germany German" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDChsbf_0kY). *Get Germanized*. youtube.com.
- www.padutchdictionary.com (http://www.padutchdictionary.com)
- www.deitshbooks.com (http://www.Deitshbooks.com)

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